

## MOST PLAYED ALBUMS - MARCH, 1975

Ornette Coleman	The Great London Concert	arista
Jan Garbarek	& Keith Jarrett / BELONGING	polydor
Wendy Waldman		warner bro.
Larry Coryell	RESTFUL MIND	vanguard
Albert Ayler	VIBRATIONS	arista
Charlie Mingus	TiaJuana Moods	r.c.a.
Sonny Rollins	SAXOPHONE COLOSSUS & MORE	prestige
Jimi Hendrix	CRASH LANDING	reprise
Passport	CROSS COLLATERAL	atco
Hollies	ANOTHER NIGHT	epic
Oregon	WINTER LIGHT	vanguard
Jesse Colin Young	SONGBIRD	warner bro.
Return to Forever	NO MYSTERY	polydor
Peter Framton	FRAMPTON	a&m
Cesar	830	r.c.a.
Journey		columbia
Joe Henderson	Canyon Lady	milestone
Omega		passport
Anthony Braxton	NEW YORK, FALL 1974	arista
Amon Duul II	HIJACK	atco
Charles Tolliver	LIVE IN TOKYO	strata east
Tampa Red	Guitar Wizard	bluebird
Randy Weston	Carnival	arista
Nils Lofgren	SP 4509	a&m
Evie Sands	ESTATE OF MIND	capitol
Keith Jarrett	DEATH & the FLOWER	abc impluse
RichardTorrence	BELLE of the BALL	shelter
Lenny Bruce	THE REAL LENNY BRUCE	fantasy
Phil Woods	THE QUARTET	testament
Jerry Corbetta	DON'T CALL US WE'LL CALL TOU	clear light

## WRUW-FM STEREO 91.1 MHz. APRIL PROGRAM GUIDE

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## MORE KNOBS TO PLAY WITH

This world has been blessed with but one kind of inch, and two kinds of tons. However we've got probably a dozen different kins of watts. There is nothing to stop a "hi-fi" maker from coming up with his own power rating system, by which he can make his new toy seem more powerful than anything else on the market.

First of all there is the plain old unadorned watt, named after that guy with the steam engine. In hi-fi specifications you can generally feel that you are dealing with real watts when you encounter such terms as 'RMS' [root mean square for the engineers reading this] or continuous power .

Real RMS watts are generally quoted for a specific distortion level(basically, fuzzy-sound) which is expressed in a percentage. Naturally the lower the distortion the better the sound and the lower the wattage rating. If you don't care about the distortion (remember Hendrix' fuzz-box) you can always crank up the power. Hi-fi people like AR, Dynaco & McIntosh use real watts in their spec sheets, generally at a low level of distortion(about 1/2% or 1/4%)

The next kind of watt is known as the 'IHF' watt named after the Institute of High Fidelity, whoose members don't feelthat real watts relating to real things like horsepower are a true reflection of the demands made on an amplifier

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## MORE KNOBS TO PLAY WITH - PART II

in the process of transmitting music. So the IHF watt was also known as 'music power' was created. This is generally figured at a distortion level of 1% & the resulting figure is about 20% higher than RMS.

However a while ago some hi-fi people decided that their amplifiers should be more powerfull or at least that unknowing consumers should think that their amplifiers are more powerful. Thus was born 'IHF\*ldb'. In simple terms a dB (decibel as in alexsander graham Bell) is a unit of loudness. The expression + 1 dB is commonly used as the tolerance range in rating frequency response, and should reflect how much a component's performance may veryfrom a stated level.

Now hi-fi makers know that most consumers don't understand this, but are impressed by scads of technical looking figures & symbols [i.e. +]. And when they add the + 1 dB figure on a wattage rating it allows them to produce & sell stuff that is really putting out less than the quoted figure. And in wattage terms that's about 26% less.

People like Fisher and Lafayette who make some good stuff and shouln't have to resort to such tactics say that the plus or minus act takes in variations occurring in the

production process. Any manufacturer of supposedly precision equipment who can tolerate a 52% variation in the performance of standardized products would be better off selling mud.

You can be sure that few if any amplifiers come off the assembley line putting out 26% more than their rated output

Next on the power escalator is the EIA watt generally used by manufacturers like General Electric or Philco who are really into things like hair-dryers and air-conditioners and transistor radios,

The Electronic Industries Association watt is rated at 5% distortion and generally comes up to be something like 5 times the size of the RMS watt.

Fortunately, EIA watts are not too commonly found on component hi-fi equipment, and are mostly seen on things like Magnavox consoles. However some manufacturers who feel they have to combat the Magnavoxes of this world are starting to use the EIA watt, in addition to or instead of

the more conservative& legitamate ratings. For example "Fisher" made a receiver which they rate at 50watts RMS per channel. Then on the front panel they put a tag touting it as 150 watts [\*\*ldB] and then they put the same equipment in a big wooden box as a console & advertise it 300 watts [EIA]

Still higher on the escalator we have things like the MPO watt, used by Montgomerey Ward et al. "MPO" stands for maximum power output, and is a number of watts the amplifier is guaranteed not to exceed.

In automotive terms its equivalent would be giving the Subaru 360 an MPO of 1,000,000 horsepower, a figure that the manufacturer can certainly guarantee that the car will exceed (or even come near).

Alas, the inflation ain't over. Some Manufacturers maintain that an amplifier can put out more oomph for short periods of time than they can on a long term basis like twice as much power. Thus was born the peak watt [sylvania likes this]. Peak Power [also known as IPP, instantaneous peak power] can be applied to any of the previous rating systems, doubling them!

If this is still not enough the figures can be doubled again by combining the power of the two channels of a stereo amp, a common practice.

Now to review, an amplifier that puts out 10 watts RMS at .25% distortion can be said to put out 20 watts because it's stereo, which then becomes 24 IHF watts, & 30 +1dB IHF watts, 96 EIA watts and 192 EIA watts! And this ain't the end. Now some manufacturers are rating their products

like light bulbs; listing the number of watts consumed the power it pulls out of your wall, not the power it puts into your speakers. If amplifiers were 100% efficient this would be okay, but nothing i can think of in this world is.

So, when the salesman tells you he can give you a 100 watt amplifier for less than the guy around the corner or your roommate says that your new 50 watt job can't power the speakers you want or you wonder why your parents new console which is supposed to have 800 watts isn't as loud as your 20 watt components, find out what watt they're talking about.





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1844 COVENTRY RD. 321-9303



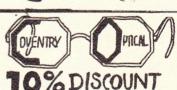
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